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quick facts on...

# RESIDENTIAL/COMMUNITY Water-Use Restrictions PHASE III

JANUARY 19, 2001

## The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

### NOTE

This document represents a summary of Phase III Water-Use Restrictions as they apply to **residential/community use**. For more details, or for a copy of the Water Shortage Rule, contact the South Florida Water Management District at 1-800-662-8876 or visit our web site at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)

## Water Shortages

Water shortages and water conservation fall under the District's mission for water supply.

South Florida depends upon rainfall for its water supply. While South Florida gets 55-60 inches of rain a year, the rainfall is seasonal, falling mostly in the summer and fall. The rainfall is also cyclical, meaning there are typically 10-year cycles of drought and flood.

To manage water shortages in an organized and efficient manner, the District has adopted a Plan and a Rule to restrict water use when supplies fall short. (Sec. 373.246, F.S.; Ch. 40E-21, F.A.C.). The goal is to protect the remaining supply by conserving water, preventing saltwater intrusion and assuring a fair distribution of available supplies. Before declaring a water shortage and imposing mandatory water-use restrictions, the District typically alerts the public by issuing a "warning." Under a water shortage warning, residents are asked to conserve water voluntarily.

## Water-Use Restrictions

The District has established specific water-use restrictions according to the severity of the water shortage – Phase I, **moderate**; Phase II, **severe**; Phase III, **extreme**; and, Phase IV, **critical** – each requiring an increasingly larger reduction in water use. The District correlates each phase of the restrictions to the overall percentage of reductions needed. Phase III aims for a 45 percent reduction in water use.

## General Guidelines

- All wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited.
- Essential services involving public health and safety, such as fire-fighting, are not restricted.
- Water-use restrictions DO NOT apply to the use of treated wastewater (reuse water),

desalinated water or water from aquifer storage and recovery wells.

- Water-use restrictions DO NOT apply to low-volume irrigation using equipment or devices that apply water directly to the root area of a plant.
- Water-use restrictions generally DO apply to water from private wells and all surface waters such as canals, lakes, ponds and rivers.
- Any exemptions from the restrictions must be through a formal process, that is, by obtaining a variance from the District.

## Water Users

Water users are grouped into categories according to use – residential, agricultural, industrial, recreational, etc. – and, according to the source from which the water comes. Residential users are the largest user-group affected by water restrictions.

## Residential/Community Water-Use Restrictions – Phase III Summary



Because about half the water used in South Florida is for landscape irrigation, the District targets outside water-use for restrictions. Irrigation

is most efficient in the early-morning hours when less evaporation occurs.

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### Landscape Irrigation & Maintenance for Homes With Less Than Five Acres of Land

- Watering is permitted on Saturdays from **4-7 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an odd number (1,3,5,7,9).
- Watering is permitted on Sundays from **4-7 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an even number (0,2,4,6,8) or with no address.
- Hand watering with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle is allowed from **5-7 p.m.**, on the same day.
- New landscaping, planted for less than thirty days, may be watered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from **2-7 a.m.**
- New landscaping may be watered by hand with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle, with voluntary reduction.
- Pesticide applications are allowed on Saturdays from **4-7 a.m.** for homes with odd addresses and on Sundays from **4-7 a.m.** for homes with even addresses. A licensed pesticide technician must be on the premises if applied outside of the allowed hours.
- When cleaning, adjusting or repairing existing irrigation systems, ten minutes of operating the irrigation system per zone/per week is permitted. And, ten minutes of system operation is permitted on a one-time basis for new irrigation systems.

### Landscape Irrigation & Maintenance for Homes With More Than Five Acres of Land

- Watering is permitted on Saturdays from **12:01-7 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an odd number (1,3,5,7,9).
- Watering is permitted on Sundays from **12:01-7 a.m.** for homes with addresses that end with an even number (0,2,4,6,8) or with no address.
- New landscaping, planted for less than thirty days, may be watered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from **12:01-7 a.m.**
- New landscaping may be watered by hand with one hose and an automatic shut-off nozzle, with voluntary reduction.
- Pesticide applications are allowed on Saturdays from **12:01-7 a.m.** for homes with odd addresses and on Sundays from **12:01-7 a.m.** for homes with even addresses. A licensed pesticide technician must be on the premises if applied outside of the allowed hours.
- When cleaning, adjusting or repairing existing irrigation systems, ten minutes of operating the irrigation system per zone/per week is permitted. And, ten minutes of system operation is permitted on a one-time basis for new irrigation systems.

### Car, Boat & Equipment Washing



- Washing of cars, boats and other equipment is permitted **4-7 a.m.** and **5-7 p.m.** on the landscape watering days. Washing must be done on, or must drain to, a non-paved surface that permits water to soak into the ground. And, it must be done using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Washing and detailing of cars is allowed anytime if done by a licensed individual or company using an automatic shut-off nozzle and low water-use techniques.
- Rinsing and flushing of boats after saltwater use is allowed once a day for up to 15 minutes per boat.

### Other Outdoor Water Uses



- Washing or rinsing of sidewalks, driveways, streets or other paved surfaces is **NOT ALLOWED** at any time.
- Low-volume pressure cleaning of any surface and structure is permitted Monday through Friday.
- Live-aboard boats that serve as a primary residence may be washed or rinsed during days and times

designated for landscape watering based on the number of the boat slip.

- Filling of new swimming pools is allowed. Refills are allowed only if the pool is leaking more than one inch per day.
- The use of re-circulating fountains and ornamental water features is prohibited.

### Further Water Supply Shortages

The District may declare more stringent restrictions as set forth in Phase IV. For the average person, the major difference in the phases is the number of days and hours that water may be used outside the home. Residential/Community irrigation hours for Phase IV are for one hour on one day of the week. In more severe conditions, the District may restrict all outside watering.

– FOR WATER CONSERVATION INFORMATION & MATERIALS –  
Contact the SFWMD at 1-800-662-8876.

This publication is also available on our Water Shortage web site at  
<http://www.sfwmd.gov/curre/watshort/index2.html>



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